

2. The state shall be divided into nine circuits. The counties of Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, and Marshall shall constitute the first; Monongalia, Preston, Tucker, and Taylor the second; Marion, Harrison, and Barbour the third; Wetzel, Tyler, Pleasants, Ritchie, Doddridge, and Gilmer the fourth; Randolph, Upshur, Lewis, Braxton, Webster, and Nicholas the fifth; Wood, Wirt, Calhoun, Roane, Jackson, and Clay the sixth; Kanawha, Mason, Putnam, and Fayette the seventh; Cabell, Wayne, Boone, Logan, Wyoming, and Raleigh the eighth; and Pocahontas, Greenbrier, Monroe, Mercer, and McDowell the ninth. If the counties of Pendleton, Hardy, Hampshire, and Morgan become a part of the state, they shall constitute another circuit, to be called the tenth. And if the counties of Frederick, Berkeley, and Jefferson become a part of this state, they shall constitute the eleventh circuit.

3. The legislature may, from time to time, rearrange the circuits; and after the expiration of five years from the time this constitution goes into operation, and thereafter at periods of ten years, may increase or diminish the number of circuits or the number of courts in a year as necessity may require.

4. For each circuit a judge shall be elected by the voters thereof, who shall hold his office for the term of six years. During his continuance in office he shall reside in the circuit of which he is judge.

5. A circuit court shall be held in every county at least four times a year, unless otherwise provided by law, in pursuance of the third section of this article. The judges may be required or authorized to hold the courts of their respective circuits alternately, and a judge of one circuit to hold a court in any other circuit.

6. The circuit courts shall have the supervision and control of all proceedings before justices and other inferior tribunals by *mandamus*, *prohibition*, or *certiorari*. They shall, except in cases confided exclusively by this constitution to some other tribunal, have original and general jurisdiction of all matters at law, where the amount in controversy, exclusive of interest, exceeds twenty dollars, and of all cases in equity, and of all crimes and misdemeanors. They shall have appellate jurisdiction in all cases, civil and criminal, where an appeal, writ of error, or supersedeas may be allowed to the judgment or proceedings of any inferior tribunal. They shall also have such other jurisdiction, whether supervisory, original, appellate, or concurrent, as may be prescribed by law.

7. The supreme court of appeals shall consist of three judges, any two of whom shall be a quorum. They shall be elected by the voters of the state, and shall hold their offices for the term of twelve years; except that of those first elected, one, to be designated by lot in such manner as they may determine, shall hold his office for four years; another to be designated in like manner for eight years, and the third for twelve years; so that one shall be elected every four years after the first election.

8. The supreme court of appeals shall have original jurisdiction in cases of *habeas corpus*, *mandamus*, and *prohibition*. It shall have appellate jurisdiction in civil cases where the matter in controversy, exclusive of costs, is of greater value or amount than two hundred dollars; in controversies concerning the title or boundaries of land, the probate of wills, the appointment or qualification of a personal